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Tending the Garden

PROMOTING
ENVIRONMENTAL
STEWARDSHIP
ACROSS
THE CAMPUS



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SUMMER 2009

Student Ambassadors for Christ



Dr. Justin Cooper, President

What an amazing semester it has been! We have seen students taking hold of the vision that Redeemer stands for and stepping out in new and exciting ways to serve and honour their Lord, providing a witness that sometimes has also extended the awareness of Redeemer and its mission.

Shaping ambassadors of Christ is just what we aim to do. Based on a Biblical world view, the liberal arts and sciences program at Redeemer seeks to help students explore the relation of faith, learning and living in order to equip them for lives of leadership and service under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. We are encouraged to see the many ways that our students are rising to this calling while still involved in their studies. Here are just a few examples from this past semester.

Some of our students shared their gifts through conferences and paper presentations. In January there were two conferences at Redeemer, one on the topic of social justice that was fully organized by our students, and the other, Christian Scholarship at the Crossroads, jointly sponsored by Redeemer and the Paideia Centre, which included not only outside speakers and presentations by our own faculty but also papers by some of our students.

Other students made their mark in the area of creation care. Our environmental studies students have contributed to campus life through the Green Team and have focused on topics in independent study courses that have been taken up in Redeemer's planning, one involving an environmental stewardship plan for our campus and the other a project to install solar panels for electric power generation. The solar panel project was part of our successful application to the federal government for infrastructure funding which was announced in May. Both of these studies were picked up in our local Ancaster newspaper.

Global vision and outreach was another area of notable student involvement. When our students rose to the challenge of a fund raiser for War Child, it ended up with front page coverage in the *Hamilton Spectator*. Students and faculty have also been busy in international mission and service placements, including service in a Mississippi town, literacy in Sierra Leone and assisting with computing at a sister Christian institution, Mkar University in Nigeria.

Again this semester our students were involved in many spiritual and service activities both on campus and in the community—whether prayer groups, worship events, volunteers serving in Hamilton's downtown, or assisting with a storytelling project in one of Hamilton's north end schools. And some of our students with a heart for justice for the vulnerable reinvigorated our Right to Life club on campus, with new activities and a new name, *Humanae Heartbeat*, which led to a story in *The Catholic Register*.

In these and many other ways our students are using their gifts, contributing to and extending Redeemer's mission. As you read the various stories about the activities and accomplishments of our students, I'm sure that you will join us in giving thanks for these examples of the new generation of Christian servant leaders that the Lord is raising up. ■

“Based on a Biblical world view, the liberal arts and sciences program at Redeemer helps students explore the relation of faith, learning and living in order to equip them for lives of leadership and service under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.”



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Feature

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Lasting Image

Commencement marks the accomplishments of our graduates. It is also an opportunity for us to recognize the role of our supporters.

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REDEEMER
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Redeemer University College is a Christian liberal arts and science university, offering courses and programs leading to a bachelor's degree. Redeemer serves over 800 students on its 86-acre campus on the shores of Hamilton.

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Cover Photo: (From left) Amy Wigboldus, Kristen Wilkoerink and Jessica Wallman are working in the Whaley Teaching Garden this summer thanks to a grant from the Canada Summer Jobs program (p. 17). The Garden serves as an outdoor lab for botany research, and will also host some of the activities of Redeemer's Summer Science Camps (p. 19).

Ottawa Makes Historic Investment in Redeemer



Board Chair Ray Pennings, MP David Sweet and President Cooper

pair and expand research and educational facilities at Canadian colleges and universities. For more information about the Knowledge Infrastructure Program, please visit www.ic.gc.ca/knowledge-infrastructure.

Redeemer's Academic Complex Renewal Project

The federal government's investment will be used in four areas:

1. **Research and Development:** Three new labs will be created and three existing labs renovated, effectively tripling the capacity for conducting research. An on-campus weather station and a greenhouse will also be created to support research.
2. **Sustainability:** This investment will be used to implement a number of energy-saving initiatives, including the installation of a series of solar panels, which will allow the University to generate much of the energy that it uses.
3. **Safety and Security:** Some of the funds will be used to enhance on-campus security, such as installing a paging and speaker system, replacing locks and adding emergency phones campuswide.
4. **Student Services:** The investment will also allow Redeemer to better serve students by expanding its Food Services area. Some of the cost for this venture is being paid by Sodexo Inc., Redeemer's food services provider.

On May 29, in a joyous ceremony in Redeemer's Commons, David Sweet, Member of Parliament for Ancaster-Dundas-Flamborough-Westdale announced that Redeemer University College will be receiving a \$2.9 million investment from the federal government's Knowledge Infrastructure Program (KIP).

"We are overjoyed with this truly historic announcement," said Dr. Justin Cooper, President of Redeemer University College. "This is indeed a momentous day for Redeemer, and we praise God for this tremendous blessing. Not only is this the largest single grant in Redeemer's history, it marks the first time we have received capital funding from the federal government. We sincerely thank Mr. Sweet and the federal government for this important investment in the education of our students."

"This is a great day for Redeemer University College and I'm pleased to be on campus to make this announcement," said MP Sweet. "Building knowledge infrastructure is so critical to our economy in the short-term and long-term. I'm very encouraged that the federal government is investing in the outstanding work being done here and across the country to prepare our students for the jobs of the future."

The investment will cover half of the total cost of more than 25 different projects that together make up the Academic Complex Renewal Project. The remaining project costs will be covered through Redeemer's annual capital budget and by donations. "We are very pleased that the federal government has decided to partner with Redeemer and our supporting community to enhance the research and educational opportunities for our faculty and students," noted Dr. Cooper. Many of these projects are "shovel-ready" and will begin promptly.

This investment is part of the federal government's two-year, \$2-billion plan to re-

Presidential Search Committee Update

By Ray Pennings, on behalf of the Board of Governors

As announced in the March issue of *Images*, a Presidential Search Committee has been appointed to assist the Board in its task of finding a successor for President Dr. Justin Cooper, whose term will expire on June 30, 2010.

Since its appointment, the Committee has been working hard to produce the framework for a successful search. To assist their work, Dr. Tony Dickema, President of Calvin College from 1976–1996, has been selected to act as the primary recruiter. Dr. Dickema has an exceptional knowledge of Redeemer, and of the spiritual, academic and leadership skill requirements of a President's position.

At a recent meeting of the Committee, Dr. Dickema detailed four components of a successful search: prayer, integrity, confidentiality, and kindness so that everyone involved is treated with civility and care.

It is through prayer that those of us who

are not active in the day-to-day activity of the search can be involved in this process. As a supporting community, we have seen evidence of the power of prayer in our individual lives and we have certainly witnessed it in the history of this institution. The Lord has blessed us with strong leadership during the last twenty-seven years, and we will continue to require that as we look to the future.

As the Committee completes the opportunity profile and begins to advertise and search for the next President, won't you please join with the Board in committing the search process to prayer? Pray for wisdom and insight as the Committee does its work. Pray also that the Holy Spirit will stir in the hearts of candidates. With the Lord's continued blessing and favour, we will look forward with anticipation to discerning how we may continue to serve the Lord through Redeemer University College.

Next Step for Dr. Cooper



After he leaves Redeemer, Dr. Cooper will not be putting his feet up entirely. He has been appointed as the next Executive Director of CHEC (Christian Higher Education Canada), effective July 1, 2010 (a one-third time position). He notes that "This is the door I prayed the Lord might open and I am delighted to be able to continue to serve the cause of Christ in education in this way." See www.chec.ca to see who the 35 member institutions are, and the work that they do.

Staff Updates



Redeemer is pleased to welcome **Ms. Doriel Moulton** as its new Associate Vice President of Marketing. In her role, Doriel will provide strategic leadership to all of Redeemer's external communication areas, including Marketing, Media Relations and Recruitment.

Doriel comes to Redeemer with more than ten years of comprehensive, strategic marketing and business development experience. She has a strong background in building and leading integrated marketing operations for accounting, consulting and legal firms, and is excited about becoming part of Redeemer's Advancement team.

Doriel, her husband Aaron and their four daughters live in Stoney Creek, where their eldest daughter attends John Knox Christian School. They attend Victory International Church, where Doriel is the choir director and a member of the praise team.



Also this spring, as part of a re-organization in Redeemer's academic administration, **Mr. Richard Wikkerink '87** was appointed Associate Vice President, Student Development and Registrar. Richard will work closely with Dr. Jacob Ellens, whose title will now be Vice President, Academic and Provost. These changes reflect the greater coherence the University is seeking between the academic and student development divisions.

Support our Student Campaign Meets Ambitious Goal

The Development Team at Redeemer is pleased to announce that, thanks to hundreds of donors, more than \$500,000 has been raised to leverage an additional half-million dollars to support Redeemer students as part of the Support our Students campaign.

The funds have provided Redeemer with the means to support over 560 students with financial aid including scholarships, bursaries, loans and on-campus work placement.

In the fall of 2008, a group of donors stepped forward and agreed to match contributions up to \$500,000 received by April 30, 2009 towards the Support Our Students campaign. On May 4, the

Development Team was happy to report that the goal had been exceeded. This campaign has brought in a total of \$2.7-million since it was launched in 2006.

Redeemer is committed to providing as much financial aid as possible. By minimizing the amount of outside employment required to fund their education, and reducing their debt-load upon graduation, financial aid helps make Redeemer an affordable option for students.

A special thank you goes out to the more than 600 donors who have contributed to the campaign.

Scholarship Evening Celebrates Excellence



Grace Silona Pot '08 and James Pot '07 await the start of a presentation on financial aid with their son Jared, as part of the Leadership Scholarship evening.

Beside the interview, students and their families enjoyed dinner and a lecture by Assistant Professor of Computer Science Dr. Derek Schuurman and his robot titled, "Redeeming Robots." Redeemer staff and students also gave workshops on financial aid, campus activities and making the adjustment to life at Redeemer.

Over the next week, telephone interviews were held with those students who were unable to attend the evening due to distance or previous commitments, and the award winners were announced in May. The complete list of students can be found at the News and Events Section of redeemer.ca.

Leadership and Academic Achievement Scholarships are one of the programs assumed by Redeemer University College following the dissolution of the Redeemer Foundation. More than 200 Redeemer students have been awarded Leadership Scholarships – which are now valued at \$2000 each – since they were first introduced in 1988.

Redeemer hosted the twentieth annual Scholarship Evening this past March, welcoming 68 students and their families as part of their application for Leadership Scholarships.

The Redeemer Leadership Award recognizes outstanding leadership contributions to school, church, or com-

munity by a student entering his or her first year at Redeemer. As part of the application process, students wrote an essay describing their personal understanding of leadership and were then invited to campus for an interview by teams of faculty or staff and a third- or fourth-year student.

REDEEMER UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

CORNERSTONE

SUPPORTING STUDENTS TRANSFORMING LIVES

Update on Strategic Planning Process

In March and April all faculty and staff, along with selected students, alumni, community leaders and donors, were invited to participate in stakeholder meetings to gather information as part of the strategic planning process.

While each stakeholder group expressed particular items of interest in their own way, many views were commonly held. Those core strengths of Redeemer included: academic credibility, faculty reputation, relationship between students and faculty, quality of students and increasing awareness of the value of Redeemer's educational offering.

The stakeholder groups also identified a number of items they felt were vital to the continued future success of Redeemer. The groups noted Redeemer must:

- » Stay rooted firmly in our Christian identity, and change thoughtfully so as not to compromise this;
- » Present our foundational Reformed identity in ways that are inviting to those from other Christian traditions;
- » Continue to make sound financial decisions that increase stakeholders' confidence in our fiscal approach;
- » Increase the visibility of Redeemer, both with traditional audiences and with new groups;
- » Communicate decisions clearly in relation to how they serve Redeemer's mission;
- » Prepare students who are ready to be successful in life, and able to influence the world;
- » Maintain an intimate atmosphere for students, even as we grow;
- » Build a stronger sense of mutual respect and community spirit, "One Body in Christ";
- » Invest in training and development for both faculty and staff.

Participants were asked about their own visions for Redeemer's future – and what they would consider a bold vision. Many diverse ideas were suggested – from strengthening the relationship with the Hamilton community to reaching out globally, from adding more traditional academic programs to including more applied academic degrees, as well as various certificate programs.

The input of the stakeholder groups has been very useful to the strategic planning project. Work is continuing on the draft strategic plan, which will set out the major focus areas for the next 5-10 years at Redeemer and assist in the selection of the new president.

New Cornerstone Builds on Former Foundation

Since its inception in 1988, the Redeemer Foundation has raised millions of dollars in assistance for Redeemer students. Now that the Foundation has wound up its business as a separate entity, a new program has emerged to continue many of those initiatives. Cornerstone – which was the name of the Foundation's newsletter – is the name of this new program which will:

- » Continue the fundraising focus of the former Redeemer Foundation;
- » Create an ongoing focus for support designated for student financial aid;
- » Sustain funding provided by the Support Our Students campaign;
- » Maintain and expand a segment of higher-level giving;
- » Initiate a separate fund for contributions earmarked for financial assistance;
- » Offset annual deficits incurred, in part, by operating funds allocated for financial assistance;
- » Establish an endowment, eventually providing permanent funding for financial assistance.

The Cornerstone slogan, *Supporting Students...Transforming Lives*, describes the importance of financial assistance – enabling Redeemer students to focus on their studies and to participate in the Christian community so they are equipped to impact others in their vocational calling.

The new Cornerstone Program will be officially launched at a dinner event at Redeemer on September 25. All those who would like to support the program as Cornerstone Partners are invited to attend. Please contact the Advancement Department (905.648.2139 x4246) to confirm your attendance.

COMING EVENTS

For more information on these and other events, please visit the website listed, or the News and Events section at redeemer.ca

JULY 22, 2009

4th Annual Redeemer University College Golf Tournament
Sponsored by Etherington & Vukets
Copetown Woods Golf & Country Club
redeemer.ca/golf

SEPTEMBER 9, 2009

Opening Convocation
President Cooper will speak to mark the start of the new year
11:00 AM

SEPTEMBER 25, 2009

Cornerstone Program Launch
5:30PM Reception
6:00PM Dinner and Program Launch
7:30PM Faculty Artists Concert

SEPTEMBER 26, 2009

Refresh and Renew
The Second Annual Worship Conference
Featuring Dr. Marya J. Dawn
redeemer.ca/worship

OCTOBER 8, 2009

Educating for Successful Intelligence and Creativity
Education Symposium
Featuring Dr. Robert J. Sternberg
redeemer.ca/educationsymposium

NOVEMBER 19, 2009

Annual Business Open House
4:30PM - 6:30PM

Commencement 2009

Pilgrimage and life's left turns

The Redeemer community celebrated the accomplishments of its graduates on May 23 with the 24th Convocation for the Conferring of Degrees. With 223 students graduating, this marked the largest class in Redeemer's history.

Keynote speaker, the Rev. Dr. Mark Gornik, Director of the City Seminary of New York, challenged graduates to look for ways to be engaged by God in this world. Included in these ways might be "left turns in life," questions, and unexpected encounters. As we are called to travel this road, there is no set path and the only guidance required is faithfulness.

Dr. Gornik recommends three travel tips: travel light and be open to learning in new ways; don't travel alone - friends and family make good companions; and enjoy, eat well, and celebrate often.

Dr. Gornik encouraged the graduates to embrace life's adventure with passion and prayer and he closed with encouraging words from Paul's letter to the Philippians: "Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."



Class Speaker Andy Luchies encouraged his fellow grads to trade a student priority list (with planned activities as the number one priority) for a new life schedule, with a revised number one priority -- to be the next generation of world-shapers. Andy also received the Governor General's Award for having the highest academic standing in the graduating class.

Ashley Thompson (left) received the Faculty Award, given annually to the graduate "who best exemplifies academic excellence, Christian leadership, and active participation in the life of Redeemer."

Awards Banquet Marks End of Athletic Season

The 22nd Annual Athletic Awards Ceremony and Dinner, celebrating excellence in sport at Redeemer University College, was held on April 3. More than 150 people were present to honour athletes for their accomplishments in their respective sports, as well as to recognize awards given by the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association (OCAA) and the Canadian Colleges Athletic Association (CCAA).

Four major awards were handed out that evening: the Male and Female Scholar Athletes of the Year and the Male and Female Athletes of the Year. In addition, 22 Graduating Player Awards, 25 OCAA All-Academic Awards, 5 CCAA All-Academic Awards, and 1 CCAA All-Canadian Award were presented, as well as the Rookie of the Year and the Most Valuable Player award for each Royals team.

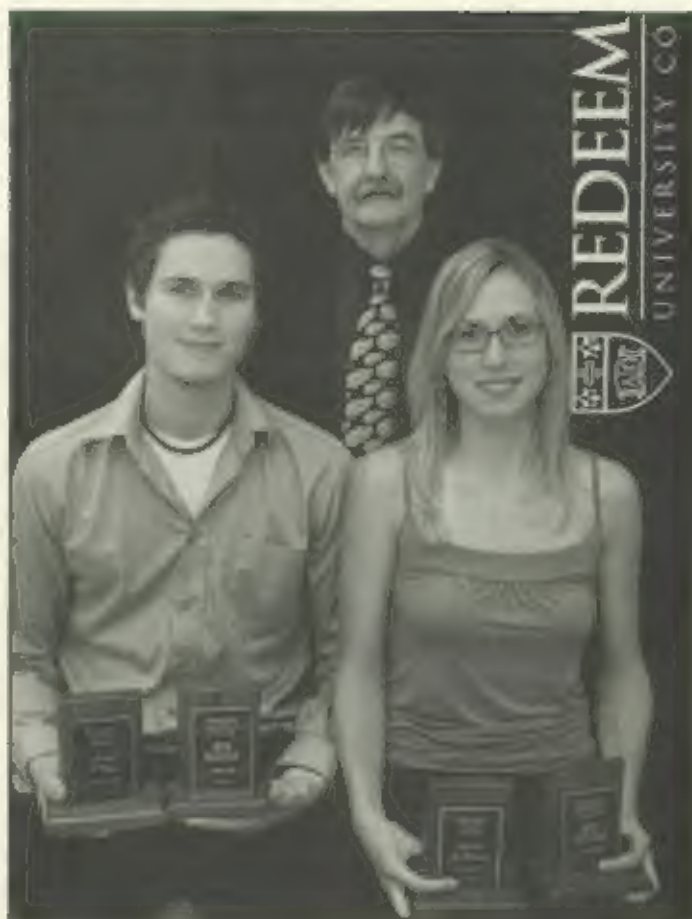
The Scholar Athlete of the year awards are handed out to those who excelled in their respective sports while maintaining an honors level grade point average in the classroom. The male recipient, third-year basketball player Jordan DeWeger, had another stellar year, leading the team in scoring once again. Jordan was selected to the OCAA All-Star game for the second consecutive year, and is looking to become the Royals all-time leading scorer next season.

Christine DeBrouwer, the Female Scholar Athlete, also had another remarkable season, capped off with a bronze medal at this year's Provincial Cross Country Championships. She also competed on the national stage at the CCAA Championships, contributing to Team Ontario's silver medal finish.

Fourth-year women's volleyball player Chantel Schutten was chosen the Female Athlete of the Year. Chantel was named an OCAA 2nd Team All-Star this year and had her best season to date. Her 71 blocks this season was the second highest total in league history, and she led the team in scoring as well. Chantel finished her career as Redeemer's single season and career record holder for blocks. Her career total of 142 ranks in the top 5 all time in the OCAA.

Ryan Talsma and Brad Douwes were honored as dual Male Athletes of the Year, the first time in Royals' history that the award has been shared. Ryan led the Royals in scoring, was named an OCAA 1st Team All-Star, and was selected as a CCAA All-Canadian. Brad was the men's volleyball captain and team leader. He was the most consistent player on the court all year and was the top scoring middle in the league. Brad was also named as an OCAA 1st Team All-Star and was chosen as team MVP.

For a full list of award winners, visit www.redeemer.ca/athletics.



Top: Dean of Students Fred Schat with Scholar Athletes of the Year Jordan DeWeger and Christine DeBrouwer. Left: Athletes of the Year Brad Douwes and Ryan Talsma (back row) and Chantel Schutten with Athletic Director Dave Mantel.

A CAMPUS-WIDE COMMITMENT

Students at the forefront of Redeemer's environmental stewardship efforts

By Michelle Drew



It seems that these days everyone wants to be – or at least be seen to be – green. Whether out of a genuine concern for environmental stewardship, a desire for bottom line savings, or just a crass marketing ploy, businesses and institutions spend a lot of time and money telling anyone who will listen how they are being less wasteful, more efficient and more responsible to the environment.

The desire to be faithful stewards of our environmental talents has for some time influenced capital plans and operational choices at Redeemer University College. For years, faculty, staff and students have worked on numerous initiatives to save electricity, reduce water consumption, increase the amount of material that can be recycled and through other measures create a campus whose ecological footprint has become smaller and smaller.

One of Brianna Fennema's initiatives this past year was to naturalize a stormwater retention pond on the north end of the campus, facing Stonehenge Drive. (Below) Brianna (far left) and the rest of Redeemer's Green Team with some of the materials donated for the project.



But what would it take to make Redeemer a 'green' University? Along with other students, Brianna Fennema, an Environmental Science major from Chatham, Ontario, was convinced that piecemeal efforts would not be enough. What was needed was a comprehensive plan that would touch every aspect of the way Redeemer operates, and impact each academic and administrative department. "We were just not comfortable being called a 'green' university without [a plan]," she said. And so this past year, as part of an independent study, Fennema took the initiative to research and write a comprehensive ecological management plan for Redeemer.

The result of her research, done under the supervision of Associate Professor of Chemistry and Environmental Science Dr. Edward Berkelaar, is a document titled *The Redeemer University College Stewardship Plan*. Its scope is far-reaching, covering areas such as expansion and planning, grounds management, food services, waste management and more. Current practices such as the dorm composting program, recyclable packaging in the food court, and the hug-a-mug campaign are praised. But she also calls for many new initiatives, such as replacing plastic shopping bags, bringing renewable energy sources to campus, and purchasing more organic food.

After all that work, Fennema wanted to ensure that her report would not just sit on a shelf after she graduated this past May. "I wanted this plan to stick, and I thought that the only way to make it do so was to present it to the Board of Governors here at Redeemer," she said. At a 90-minute presentation that she was able to give at the Board's May meeting, her findings were enthusiastically received. Board members immediately passed a motion to have the President regularly report on the progress of the Stewardship Plan, and they resolved an action committee to implement the goals and strategies of the plan.

The objective of Fennema's Stewardship Plan is to "encourage an excitement, an interest, a movement, from all levels of the institution that will recognize the need for a stewardship plan." That movement towards a sustainable campus has already begun and, thanks to other students, administrative initiatives and even the federal government, several portions of it will be realized much quicker than even she had anticipated. ■



Students for Sustainability

Promoting environmental stewardship on campus has been an important part of many students' education. The Green Team, one of Redeemer's most active student groups, has continually led the way for students to take a role in the sustainability of the campus.

This year the Green Team hosted movie nights and an Environmental Week to raise awareness of several issues. They also engaged in several hands-on activities such as a cleanup of the campus and its neighbourhood. In April, the team began implementation of one of the goals of Fennema's Stewardship Plan by planting trees, shrubs, and tall grasses to naturalize a stormwater retention pond at the north-end of the campus.

"After creating the report I wanted to check off at least one of the goals to get a jump start on environmental progress," Fennema said. "I went around to different nurseries in the Hamilton area and collected donations, approximately 50 trees, shrubs, and wildflowers that were planted by students to celebrate Earth Day."

As leader of the Green Team in 2008-2009, Kira Langendoen, an Environmental Science major from St. Catharines, Ontario, became Redeemer's first representative for Renewal, a network of Christian Students for Creation Care across North America. This spring the group hosted a conference in Goshen College in Indiana, where Langendoen and three other students discussed many aspects of creation care with representatives from other Christian university campuses.

"We came away feeling inspired for Christian steward-

ship and excited to do things on Redeemer's campus," said Langendoen. During the year Renewal also organized a Day of Prayer, a Day of Service and a Day of Advocacy. "Renewal has helped Redeemer connect with many other Christian schools, sharing ideas for projects and encouraging each other. It is very encouraging to know that we are part of a revolution of young people who are stepping up to show their peers, their community and their churches that as Christians we have a responsibility for environmental stewardship."

The research of Hamilton's David Van Es, who is also in the Environmental Science program, will contribute to one of the most anticipated upcoming campus sustainability projects. As part of his Independent Study, completed under the supervision of Dr. Berkelaar, Van Es worked with ARISE Technologies Incorporated, a solar energy provider from Waterloo, Ontario, to research the possibility of installing solar panels on campus. This spring, Redeemer used his work as part of its successful application for a grant from the federal government's Knowledge Infrastructure Program (see p. 5). "If he hadn't done that project, we wouldn't have applied for funding for solar panels through the KIP program," says Alfred Mazurek, Redeemer's Director of Physical Plant and Security. Van Es is thrilled by this accomplishment, which will see photovoltaic solar panels installed on the roof of the Academic Complex over the next two years, reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 100 tonnes per year. ■

Left: Jeremy Parsons was one of the students who went to the Renewal Conference in Indiana this spring. After their return the students shared some of their information as part of a display in the Commons. Right: Green Team leader Kira Langendoen.

For when we are made
in the great creation
in the Christian
new world of a God's world

A Cross-Campus Commitment

Alfred Mazereeuw, Redeemer's Director of Physical Plant and Security, has been involved in the greening of the campus since he came to Redeemer four years ago. "I think we're seeing students getting more involved now, and they are encouraging sustainable initiatives," he says. "I like to think that Redeemer has already been looking at a lot of the needed changes, but students are able to give a new perspective on the progress. Originally the initiatives that were taken didn't have a real focus but Bridgeway's Stewardship Plan is helping to bring it more focus."

Over the last ten years, Redeemer has taken a number of initiatives to advance a greener campus. Maintenance has replaced furnaces, lights, faucets and showerheads in all of the dorms to reduce energy and water use, ninety-three percent of the cleaning products used by the Custodial Department are environmentally friendly, all styrofoam has been eliminated from the Food Court and Market, dorm thermostats are remotely programmed, and thermostats in the Academic Building are set back after hours.

Food Services will be introducing a number of initiatives this Fall, such as converting used cooking oil into biodegradable fuel and an improved waste removal system. They are also continuing to develop more relationships with local food producers. "Our #1 goal in all areas of Campus Services, whether that be in Conference Services, Custodial Services or Food Services is to become more sus-

tainable," says Doreen Gringhuis, Director of Campus Services. "We are looking at a stewardly approach in all areas."

The Environmental Stewardship Advisory Committee has also played a key role in promoting sustainable development on campus. Consisting of faculty, staff and students, the group focuses on developing recommendations to implement existing priorities, and on giving analysis of new projects to ensure they are built in a sustainable manner. "I think we're making good progress," says Mazereeuw, who serves as the chair of the committee. "We can always do more, but I think what we are doing, we are doing very well."

One of the primary reasons Redeemer has been able to make such progress towards a more sustainable campus is that each area of the institution is working with the others to achieve the greater goal. Students are seeing firsthand the impact they can have on their campus, faculty and staff are being encouraged and empowered to be active on these issues and the Board of Governors has taken a strong leadership role. The result is a campus that is buzzing with anticipation for all that is to come. Kira Langendoen says it best: "I have been very encouraged by the changes Redeemer has made in the last couple of years, especially in their attitude toward creation care. I have felt a change in the hearts of administration, staff and students as they learn to work together to serve the Creator in the way they live and run Redeemer's campus." ■

FEATURE STORY

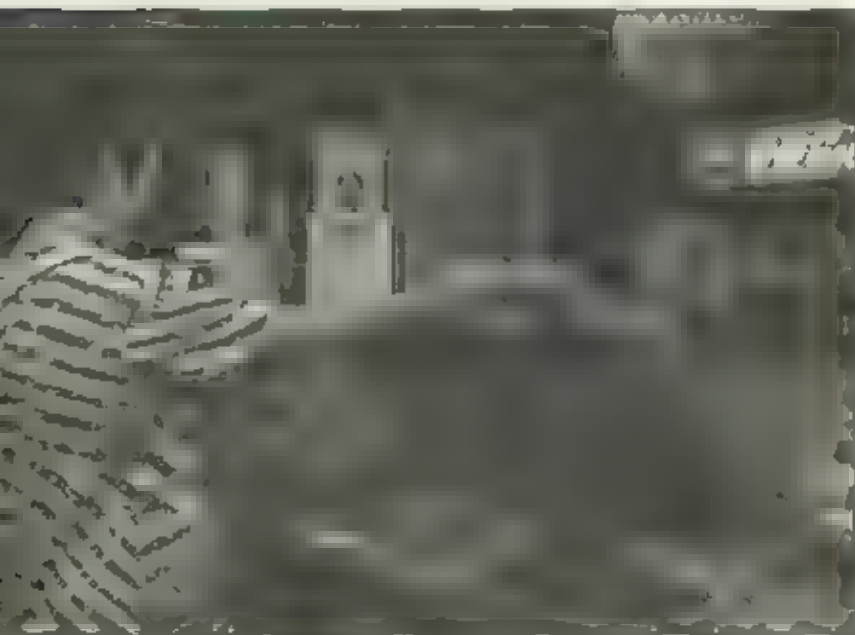
KIP GRANT KICK-STARTS PROJECTS

In the next two years, an estimated \$2.2 million of the total \$5.9 million Academic Complex Renewal Project will go towards sustainable initiatives on campus. This money will come from the \$2.9 million that Redeemer received from the federal government's Knowledge Infrastructure Program.

With the funds, a number of projects throughout the Academic Complex will be undertaken. All original bathroom fixtures will be replaced with water-saving units including toilets, faucets, urinals, and showerheads. Original hallway and office windows and skylights will be replaced with new energy efficient units. Solar panels will be installed on the roof reducing the institution's dependence on the electrical grid and reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 100 tonnes a year. Other projects include replacing HVAC units and installing basic entry vestibules on main entrances to minimize heat and cooling losses during entry and exit.

Discover a 'Re Fresh'-ing Change

Improvements to Food Services
spurred on in part by student input



Redeemer's Food Services, along with its partner Sodexo, is making great strides in improving not only the meal plan options for students, but the offerings for staff, faculty and campus guests as well. Many of these changes are borne out of the results of last October's University Report Card, published by the *Globe and Mail*. Last year Redeemer students graded food services at a C+, higher than the national average and an improvement from the grade Redeemer earned in 2007.

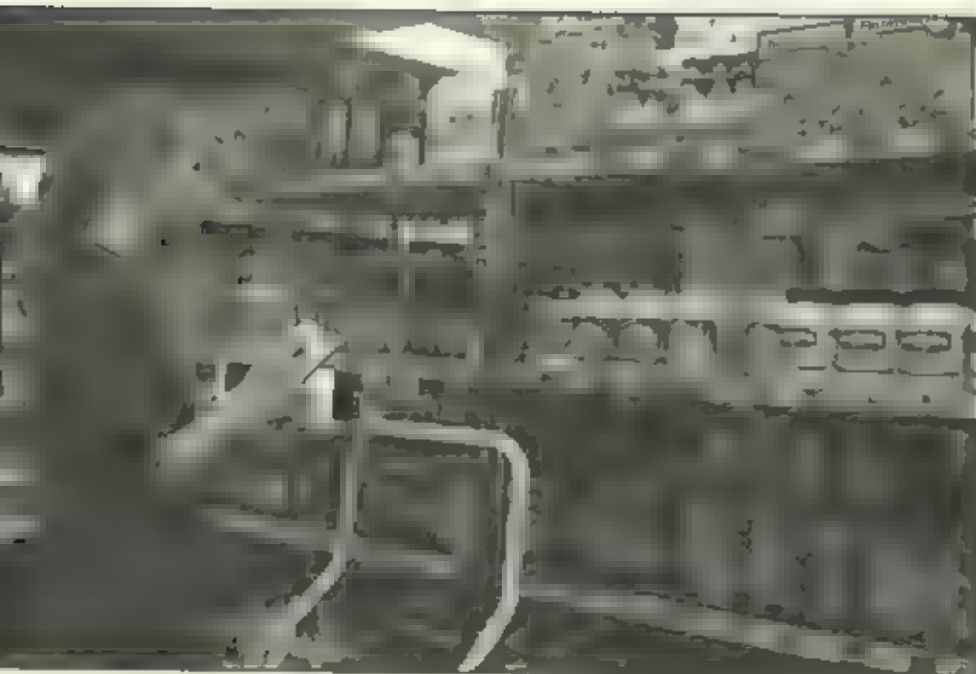
As Director of Campus Services, Doreen Gringhuis oversees all aspects of food services, including the student meal plan. "Through surveys and other feedback tools, we have taken a very pro-active approach to identifying and responding to student concerns about the meal plan, and we have made tremendous strides in providing students with a much improved plan." Over the last few years, for example, the Food Court has added a sur-fry station, home-made pizza and many simply-to-go products such as sandwiches and salads to its menu.

One of Redeemer's unique programs is its meal plan. Instead of eating in a common dining hall two or three times a day, on-campus students purchase groceries from the Market and prepare meals for themselves in their residence. "We've also tried to be responsive to student requests at the Market," notes Gringhuis. Although health regulations limit what can be done, "we try to accommodate most requests that students have for stocking items in the Market for the Meal Plan." More bulk food options and a change in produce suppliers are just two of the enhancements that were made this past year in the Market.

To further improve service, Campus Services will be renovating the Food Court and the Williams Coffee Pub.



Above: A wider selection of hot entrees and snacks, and a pizza station are two of the recent additions to the Food Court.
Facing page: A well-stocked Market gives students lots of choice as they plan their meals.



this summer. In the first phase, Williams has been relocated to the Market, complete with a walk up window along the main hallway of the academic building. Customers will be able to purchase hot and cold beverages, cookies, muffins, pastries and specialty drinks here throughout the day and evening.

In the second phase, the Food Court will be renovated to offer expanded Sun-Fry, Pasta and Pizza Stations, a greater variety of hot entrees and a new deli section which will feature made-to-order sandwiches and fair trade coffee.

The two locations will allow patrons to move more quickly through the lines that form during the busiest parts of the day. It will also allow Redeemer to provide food services to those who are on campus for athletic or cultural events that take place during the evenings and weekends, when the demand is not as great, without keeping the entire Food Court open.

Campus Services will also be making changes to the seating areas of the two locations. More cafe-style seating will be made available in the Commons, and some soft seating will be added to the Food Court, creating an atmosphere that will foster community.

Crighorn is excited about the plans for Food Services: "We will be able to provide better service to the Redeemer community, more food options for students and enhanced seating areas for all patrons. This is not just the old Food Court with a new coat of paint - it's a rediscovered food experience with many new options. It's Re-Fresh!" ■

Things definitely don't slow down in the summer

Finding the time to implement these changes to the Food Court requires a fair bit of juggling. Most of the renovations are being completed after the academic year, when there are few students on campus. However, Campus Services also hosts thousands of visitors to Redeemer each summer, and almost all of them need to be fed.

Redeemer is the Hamilton area's third-largest conference services provider, welcoming more than 50,000 visitors to campus each year. During the summer months, the building is busy with church group retreats, business meetings, family reunions and other events. One of the largest conferences this summer will be the 40th Annual Counselor Leadership Conference for GEMS (Girls Everywhere Meeting the Season), a world-wide ministry for girls. More than 500 delegates are expected to attend the Conference, making it one of the largest events Redeemer has ever hosted.

Other highlights:

- » Redeemer's Auditorium will host the graduation exercises of more than a dozen elementary and secondary schools this spring.
- » Redeemer's campus will serve as the backdrop for several film productions this summer.
- » The athletic facilities will be used by hundreds of children enrolled in Redeemer's Summer RAYS and Power Volleyball camps this summer.

If you or your group is looking for meeting or conference facilities, or if you are just looking for a quiet spot to stay for a few days while traveling this summer, contact Campus Services at 905.649.2.39 x4214 or email your request for information to conferences@redeemer.ca.

Fundraising Efforts Bring Celebrity to Campus

Chantal Kreviazuk congratulates students on donation to War Child Canada

After three shaved heads, a collection of painted fingernails and weeks of fundraising efforts from dedicated students, the Redeemer student body officially presented \$5056 to War Child Canada. Celebrating the efforts, Canadian singer-songwriter Chantal Kreviazuk visited the school for an hour and a half of storytelling, discussion, and song.

War Child Canada (WCC) is dedicated to providing urgently needed humanitarian assistance to war-affected children around the world. An advocate and supporter of WCC, Kreviazuk agreed to come to Redeemer after Sociology professor Dr. Timothy Epp contacted her through the Internet. The minimum donation required for her visit was \$2500, but students more than doubled that amount.

Kreviazuk's connection with WCC has been a source of great pride in her life. "It has enabled me to manifest who I am" through a non-profit organization. Her passion for WCC stems from the countries, conditions, and people she has gotten to know throughout her life. Traveling to Ethiopia to see the work that WCC is doing firsthand particularly impacted her and has assured her that "every single penny at WCC is accounted for - nothing goes to waste."

During the presentation, Alyson Rowe, Manager, Public Outreach for War Child Canada, announced that the donation by Redeemer students was the largest of any college or university in Canada. Kreviazuk also agreed to give a private full-length concert to anyone willing to donate \$30 000 to the fund - which is the cost of building a new school in Ethiopia.



From left:
Chantal Kreviazuk
applauds as
Laura Mainland and
Melissa Hogeboom
present to War Child
Canada's Alyson Rowe a
cheque for
more than \$5000

After speaking about WCC, Kreviazuk sang two of her hits — "Feels Like Home" and "Julia" — before opening up the floor to questions. During the Q & A period, she answered students' questions about topics such as motherhood, musicianship and the role of faith. Kreviazuk shared how she relies "on the two 'humes' — humility and humour," to remain balanced while being both a successful musician and a human rights activist.

Kreviazuk was in Hamilton as part of her latest tour. She began her concert later that night at Hamilton Place by praising the work of Redeemer students in supporting War Child Canada. Melissa Hogeboom and Laura Mainland, two of the students who headed up the fundraising efforts, were guests of Chantal at the concert, and were publicly thanked for their work.

Two Graduates Receive Student Life Award



Each year, Redeemer University College recognizes one female and one male student who have demonstrated the desire, commitment, and courage to make Redeemer and the Hamilton community a better place. The Student Life Award is given to these two students who exemplify Christian commitment in all areas of university life.

Both students receive a plaque at the closing convocation at the end of the academic year. And for the first time this year, they also receive a \$250 award to be donated to a charity of their choice.

This year's female recipient, Emma-Jane Cohn, asked that her award be given to the Olive Branch, an outreach ministry for the homeless and poor in downtown Hamilton. Emma-Jane is passionate, optimistic and creative, and has been involved in a number of activities on- and off-campus. Both a Residence Assistant and a spiritual mentor for several students, Emma-Jane served as a key leader in the H₂O (Help to Others) club, organized a Hamilton mission trip, and helped to establish Deeds4Hamilton, a program dedicated to befriending the homeless.

Peter Kranenburg asked that his award be given to Micah House, a home for refugees in downtown Hamilton. Peter has helped organize and lead several mission trips to Mexico; he has also been a Resident Assistant and a member of the Chapel Planning Team. Peter has served on Student Senate and has been the student representative on the University's Academic Senate. His nomination stated that "he has been a blessing to my life and his solid Christian worldview and values shine through in the way he lives his life."

Students Play Key Role During Summer

Although there are few classes between May and August, Redeemer still depends on students: more than 50 will be working full-time in various administrative and academic departments across campus this summer.

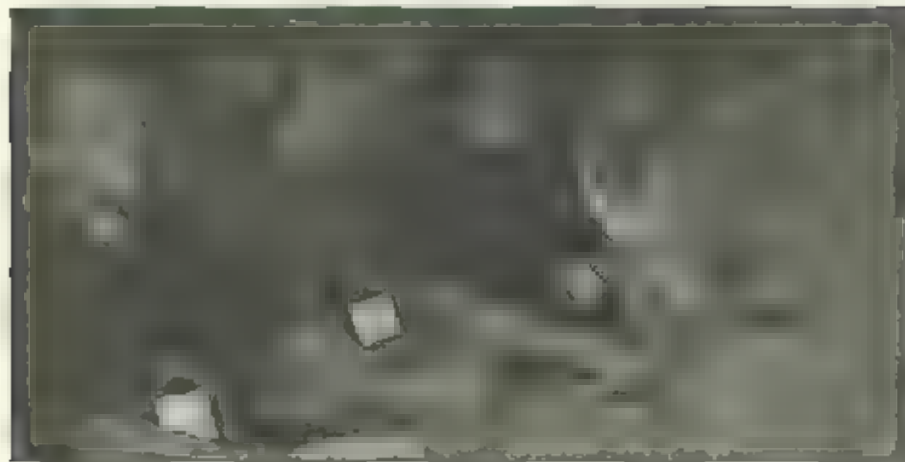
Many of these student-workers are essential to Redeemer's Conference and Ancillary Service Department. As soon as exams are completed, a crew of 15 work to convert the residences from student housing to conference facilities, and more are hired to keep the campus clean and the grounds well-kept for visitors.

Other students work as office assistants in various departments, handling administrative tasks, providing vacation relief and giving staff the opportunity to work on new projects and initiatives.

Redeemer was also able to hire 9 students under the Canada Summer Jobs funding program, an initiative of the federal government's Summer Work Experience initiative. It provides funding to create high-quality summer job opportunities for students between the ages of 15 and 90. Funding for these positions is contingent on an employer providing career-related experience or early work experience.

Once again this year, the National Science and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) is providing grants for a number of undergraduates assist faculty with their research. On August 14, from 9:00 am to noon, the Science Division will host the fourth annual Sciences Division Undergraduate Research Symposium. Students doing undergraduate research in the sciences will be giving presentations on their work. Topics will include: toxic metal uptake in plants, mathematical modeling, and computer vision techniques for sorting recyclable materials. Further details of the event will be posted on Redeemer's website as they become available.

Student News and Notes:



Paul DeWeerd (left) was one of seven youth delegates at this year's CRC Synod in Peoria Heights, IL.

Congratulations to Paul DeWeerd, a fourth-year student from Listowel, ON and the incoming president of Student Senate who was appointed as one of seven youth delegates from North America to attend the annual synod of the Christian Reformed Church (CRC) in Chicago, IL, from June 12-20. The role of the youth delegates is to interact with other delegates, observe the proceedings, and give feedback about how the CRC can better involve and engage with young people.

This experience will strengthen him not only for his service on campus this coming academic year, but also as he pursues his dream of serving in youth ministry after graduation.



Jeremy Parsons, a third-year student from Harrow, ON, contributed an article to *Raise the Hammer*, an online magazine devoted to providing a variety of opinions and approaches to making Hamilton a great city. Parsons commented

on Ancaster's struggle to balance its "rich history and wealth of natural resources and the pressing nature of development." In the article, he examines Ancaster's

past and his future plans for expansion and looks at the role that Redeemer has played in that process.

In May, several Redeemer students took part in the inaugural HES Community Day Extension at McMaster Innovation Park. The event, a follow-up to the Hamilton Economic Summit, provided an opportunity for students to learn



more about Hamilton's evolving economy and to participate in helping to build the community of tomorrow.

Esther Shiedrecht, a third-year English and Religion major from St. Catharines, ON, was one of the participants. She comments "The goal of this event was to let the youth of Hamilton have a voice [in shaping] Hamilton's future economy. Even though I'm not from Hamilton, it was interesting to hear the needs and wants of Hamiltonians as well as the good things that make up Hamilton."

Eating as an act of service



For his independent project in the Environmental Science program, Josh Salverda, from Cambridge, Ontario, decided to do an experiment. With a strong interest in the environmental impact of food production, Josh challenged himself and fourteen friends to eat locally grown food for a semester. One of their challenges was beginning the diet in January, which meant the bounties of the harvest were not an option.

Squash and potatoes were staple items on the menu, but by the end they were leaning on quite a bit of cabbage, salads, beef and chicken. "Doing this project communally has been a great way to maintain motivation," said Josh. "I would like to continue eating local produce and discover the diversity and creativity of eating with the seasons."

The project turned out to be a great success, leaving all participants with a new understanding of food. One of the other students who took part in the project, Steve Pypler, said of the experience, "If my faith can't speak to my basic shopping habits, how can it speak to other parts of my life? Eating locally is an incredibly simple way to love my neighbour and the creation."

Leaving a legacy for students and faculty

Dr. Norman leaves Redeemer after 21 years



Dr. Wayne Norman is retiring from Redeemer University College again, and this time, he won't be coming back. In 1988, Dr. Norman came to Redeemer from Iowa, where he had been teaching at Northwestern College. An experimental psychologist, Dr. Norman's expertise complemented the department, allowing it to modify the curriculum to better prepare students for graduate school.

In early 2008, Dr. Norman took on the role of Director of Research and Faculty Development. During his time at Redeemer, he embraced his role as facilitator and encourager of all scholarly activity: cutting-edge research, pedagogical enhancement, and professional development. After the 2006-07 academic year Dr. Norman retired from teaching, but agreed to remain Director of Research and Faculty Development on a part-time basis.

Through that role, Dr. Norman has overseen the disbursement of faculty re-

search and course development grants as well as the guiding of young faculty in their research agendas. Part of his work has included the mentoring of faculty in their first three years at Redeemer. Dr. Jacob Ellens, Vice President Academic and Provost, reflects on the importance of this task: "The program has become an instrument enabling faculty to find their place in the millennia-long tradition of Christian scholarship with special focus on its Reformed wing. He has promoted faculty and student research in ways that fit the mission of Redeemer and has raised the profile of research funding."

This summer, Dr. Norman will leave Redeemer to take up a position in the Psychology Department of Simpson University, a sister Christian institution in Redding, CA. The move will also allow him to spend more time with his family, who live in the US Pacific Northwest.

Dr. Norman's work will be carried on by two faculty members: the position of Director of Research and Faculty Development will be taken up by Dr. Doug Loney, who will also integrate this work with the area of Teaching and Learning; and the mentoring of new faculty will be taken on by Dr. Jine van der Meer. Redeemer is grateful for the willingness of these two to take on these new responsibilities and prays that the important work begun by Dr. Norman will continue to bear good fruit. "[Dr. Norman] took great care in both his teaching and his research and came to be respected as a model teacher-scholar. This university is greatly in his debt," notes Dr. Ellens.

Science Camps Return this Summer:

Thanks to a grant from the Canada Summer Works Program (see p. 16), Professor Jennifer Chiang, Lecturer in Biology, will once again be offering two week-long camps at Redeemer this summer for students who are interested in learning more about the natural sciences.

Entitled *Have you ever wondered...?*, these sessions will give curious students from ages 8 – 13 the chance to investigate the science of everyday items, processes and inventions.

Have you ever wondered...?

July 27 – 31 (ages: 8-10)

August 10 – 14 (ages: 11-13)

\$150 for the week

For more information,
please visit
www.redeemer.ca/scienceschool
or contact Prof. Chiang at
905.648.2139 x4245
jchiang@redeemer.ca.

A Service Call to Mkar

Faculty and alumnus continue relationship with Nigerian university



For three weeks this spring, Matthew West '88 and Dr. Derek Schuurman, Assistant Professor of Computer Science, volunteered at the University of Mkar (formerly called Hilltop University) in Mkar, Nigeria.

West and Schuurman spent time working with the computer lab, which is one of the few places in the university where there is a steady supply of electrical power. The power is off far more often than it is on, making the use of computers and other electrical devices extremely challenging. "Unreliable power contributes to the so-called 'digital divide' – the gap between those who have reliable access to digital technology and those who do not," notes Dr. Schuurman, who also observed a programming class which was taught in the computer lab, but which used a whiteboard, paper and pencils since the power was out for much of the class.

Not only is dependable power a challenge, but so is reliable internet access, which leads to another problem: the rapid proliferation of computer viruses. Since very few people have internet access, the primary way to transfer files was to use a USB flash drive, which propagates viruses. The lack of internet access also means that people are unable to get regular anti-virus updates. To help combat that problem, Schuurman and West installed Linux – a powerful and free operating system that can run on older hardware and is immune to Windows viruses – on many of the machines at Mkar. They also repaired the university's "eGranary" server, a collection of millions of digital educational resources stored on a large hard drive that patrons of their library can access.

Besides providing technical advice, Schuurman also was invited to speak in a chapel service, provide computer workshops and give a one-day seminar on "Faith and Computer Technology." Approximately 50 participants from six different schools and universities attended the seminar, Schuurman says. "Giving the workshop was an honour and a delight

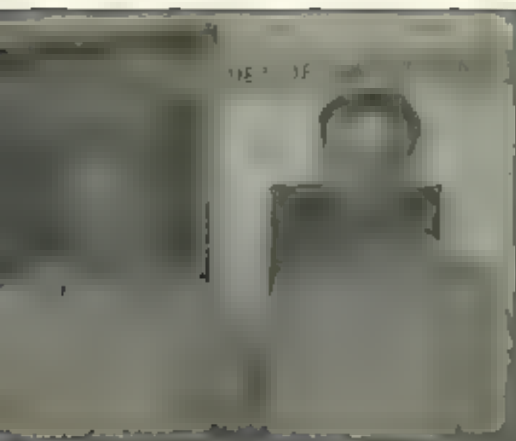
Left: Dr. Derek Schuurman (standing in centre) and some of the participants of one of his workshops at the University of Mkar in Nigeria.

Right: Dr. Schuurman and Matt West spent two weeks repairing computers in the university's Computer Science Department.

Right: Dr. Schuurman and Matt West spent two weeks repairing computers in the university's Computer Science Department.

Right: Dr. Schuurman and Matt West spent two weeks repairing computers in the university's Computer Science Department.





participants appeared genuinely engaged and seemed interested in hearing about how faith can inform areas like computer technology. One participant remarked on how he appreciated the seminar and how his view on the connection between faith and technology had changed. In hindsight, I suspect that sharing this perspective was equally (or perhaps more) important than the technical work we accomplished."

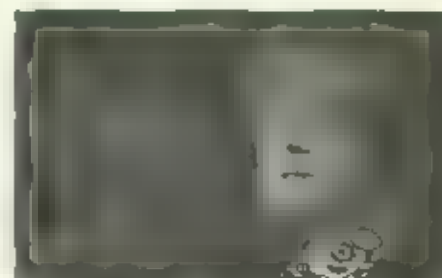
Even though the University of Mbar is located in a small rural town in south-central Nigeria about five hours drive "down bush" from the capital Jos, Schuurman was amazed at the size and influence of the Reformed church there. "Like the yams that grow abundantly in this area God has also allowed the seed of the word to fall on fertile soil and produce a large harvest. While I was there I met a few people and heard of others who had been trained in Christian schools in Nigeria and who had landed positions of leadership and responsibility. Christian education can change people and can help change a country. I encourage [everyone] to pray for this fledgling Christian university as well as other institutions around the world that seek to proclaim the Lordship of Jesus Christ in the area of higher education."

Research into Christian Schools Leads to Doctorate and New Appointment

Congratulations to Assistant Professor of Education Deam Van Pelt on successfully defending her Ph.D. thesis at the University of Western Ontario this spring. Dr. Van Pelt's dissertation, *Stories of separation: Charting non-state schools in Ontario*, was the culmination of years of research into privately-funded educational institutions.

Dr. Van Pelt will have the opportunity to continue this research as she embarks on a sabbatical from Redeemer for the 2009-10 academic year to serve as a lead co-investigator in a major study of Christian education called "Outcomes of private religious Christian education in North America."

Co-investigator Dr. David Sikink of Notre Dame will lead the quantitative aspects of the study, which is funded by Cardus (formerly the Work Research Foundation). Plans for the study include participation of 24,000 graduates of Christian education and of 300 randomly selected schools from across Canada and



the USA. Van Pelt will primarily lead up the qualitative aspects of the research. The proposed results will point towards links between characteristics of schools (e.g., homeschools and outcomes for alumni). "An exciting aspect of the study design is that Christian schools that are not randomly-selected can still participate in the research and receive school-specific or school-sector specific feedback. They will then be able to compare their school or sector results with the overall findings," says Van Pelt. For more information, please contact Dr. Van Pelt at deampelt@redeemer.ca.

Lights, Camera, and lots of Action

For two days this spring, Redeemer's gym became a combination dance studio and movie set. Dr. John Byl is leading a team of one other professor, Dr. Mary Dyck, and four teachers in producing a significantly improved version of their daily physical active resource, *Everybody Move*. The resource includes a book of games and dances, a CD of great music to move to and use for circuits in elementary and high school situations, and a DVD that demonstrates much of the dances and the dance manual. Human Kinetics, the world leader in fitness and sport publishing, is producing this resource and it should be available this coming November.



Developing Leaders in Haiti



Through the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) and Baptist Haiti Mission (BHM), a network of over 200 schools, Dr. Steve Sider, Retiree, Director of Teacher Education, has been running professional development courses in Haiti for the past number of years. This March he invited Dr. Dirk Windhorst,

Assistant Professor of Education and Mr. Clare Leboud, a retired Christian school administrator, to join him leading an intense two-week professional development **SCHOOL**.

The Haiti Christian School Leadership Certificate Program provides an opportunity for Haitian administrators to receive training in school system leadership and management. The program is made up of a number of different components, taught (in this case) by English-speaking visitors through a translator to the French-speaking Haitians. For most of the 400 principals who attended, this marked the first time they had taken a formal teacher education course.

The number and depth of problems facing Haiti, the poorest country in the western hemisphere, are almost overwhelming. Yet as Dr. Windhorst remarks, "Although the abject poverty of Haiti is

well known . . . I saw signs of hope everywhere. Education is highly valued in Haiti, and many parents would rather forgo food and medical treatment than not be able to pay the school enrollment fees on time."

Dr. Sider agrees that education is the key to moving forward: "More than 85% of all Haitian children are educated in Christian schools. If we are going to see massive socio-economic and spiritual change occur in Haiti, then it would seem that the logical place that this would start would be in schools. Through this program, we are seeing Christian schools and Christian school organizations working together in developing curriculum in ways not seen before."

Top: Dr. Sider works with a translator as part of the Haiti Christian School Leadership Certificate Program. Left: Dr. Windhorst practices his French with some of the school children at the Baptist Haiti Mission compound south of the capital Port au Prince.

Orphan 32 Goes Home

Thanh Campbell '96 completes remarkable journey



In previous issues of *Images*, Thanh Campbell has told his remarkable story. As a young boy living in a Saigon orphanage, Thanh was one of 57 orphans transported to a new life in Canada just before the end of the Vietnam War. Adopted into a Canadian family, Thanh lived and grew up as a Canadian citizen, but he longed to find his Vietnamese family.

In June 2007, Thanh organized a reunion of these orphans, a story that was picked up by a Vietnamese newspaper. Titled "Longing for coming back to Vietnam," it included a photo of then 2-year-old Thanh with a sign that read "32" hanging from his neck. The photo stunned Nguyen Minh Thanh who had for more than thirty years sought to find his long-lost son.

After more than 30 years Thanh Campbell is reunited with his birth father at the airport in Ho Chi Minh City.

Still residing in Ho Chi Minh City, he and his other sons — Thanh's biological brothers — made contact with Thanh.

This May, Thanh, along with his wife Kanna '95, their four children and Thanh's adoptive father, Rev. William Campbell, all flew to Ho Chi Minh City for an emotional reunion. Thanh described what happened:

After half an hour of various check points at the Tan Son Nhut airport, we received our luggage and pushed through the doors in the arrival area of the airport. We were met by the sight of hundreds of people behind a barricade waiting to see their expected parties.

Amidst this mayhem, Kanna turned to me and said, "There they are! They're waiting for you!" I looked up to see my father and three brothers carrying a sign with my name on it and wearing huge grins on their faces. I gave up the role of amateur film producer, ran to the fence and hugged them. Thirty-three years of waiting had come to an end. I met with an embrace that will be remembered for a long time.

It was the company that I enjoyed at breakfast that morning. Here was my wife, four kids and adoptive father sitting in a hotel restaurant in the land where I was born; and joining us was my younger brother Thao, my birth father (or Ba in Vietnamese), and the journalist Thanh Truc, who brought to light this story that drew the attention of my long-lost family. I would finally hear the beginning of my story from my Ba.

With a voice of sadness, my Ba shared his story and recounted how his wife never recovered from the trauma of losing her youngest child. He spoke quietly about their sense of loss and their mission to find information about where these children had been taken. On her death bed in 1987, his wife — my birth mother — Nguyen Ngoc Thu, pleaded, "Never give up looking for our little Thanh."

After thirty years of searching! wearing a big smile and carrying a heart full of thanks to God for his grace and mercy, I was able to meet the family that I never knew I had. I was able to introduce them to the family I have been blessed to receive here in Canada — and I was able to see my children bonding with their cousins on the beach of the South China Sea. What a journey!

To read more about Thanh's journey, visit his website www.orphan32.com

Alumni Association Renovations

When my husband and I bought our home twelve years ago, it seemed just right. But over the years, as our family grew, we needed to do a number of renovations for our home to continue to be just right. The Redeemer Alumni Association is also undergoing some renovations. Our membership has grown to more than 3000, we have welcomed a new Director, Valerie Louter, and we have a new crop of enthusiastic and capable Board members. But the term Board of Directors does not fit the role and responsibilities that this body has performed over the past few years.

We are therefore proposing that the Alumni Board be renamed the Alumni Council, a term which more accurately reflects the vision and tasks of our group. Changing the name necessitates an amendment to the Alumni Association Constitution which must be approved by the Association.

You are hereby invited to voice your opinion by voting to approve (or not) the name change in one of two ways:

- » by e-mail – alumnioffice@redeemer.ca
- » or by phone – 905-648-2139 x4233; toll free 877-779-0913 x4233

You must register your vote by September 7, 2009.

The Board's last act under its current name will be to spend some time over the summer in prayerful strategic planning. As always, we welcome your input and suggestions and look forward to continuing to serve the Alumni Association.

Sharon Timmerman VanderMeulen '89,
President, Alumni Association Board

2009/10 Alumni Association Council

Sharon Timmerman VanderMeulen '89 President
Nathaniel VandenDool '08 Vice-President
Brian Harskamp '04 proposed Alumni Representative to Board of Governors
Margaret Bulk Gassanov '00 Alumni Representative to Academic Senate
Student Senate representative (to be appointed)

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Jennifer Dykhoush Adema '00
Vanessa Chiang '05
Bill DeJong '93
Jen Haanstra de Vries '01
Mark Sinka '04
Liz Teeninga '02
Jakob Van Dorp '06

Please join us in welcoming our newest members!

BILL DEJONG received his MDiv from Mid-America Reformed Seminary and is a pastor at Cornerstone Canadian Reformed Church in Hamilton, ON. Bill and his wife Kim are parents to four sons. Bill enjoys philosophy, literature, movies and running. He has completed one marathon and numerous half-marathons.

JAKOB VAN DORP earned a Master's Degree in Urban and Regional Planning from Queen's University. A resident of Wharton, ON, he recently participated in a combination research study/fundraiser in which a team of relay runners ran 894 kilometers of the Bruce Trail.

MARGARET BULK GASSANOV plans to complete her Ph.D. in Sociology in September 2009. In her free time, she enjoys exploring the neighbourhoods of Toronto, photography, and hanging with family and friends. After she completes her dissertation, she hopes to take up mosaic artwork again and to further develop her photography skills.

14th Annual Redeemer University College Alumni & Friends Golf Tournament

Saturday, August 29, 2009

Shotguts start 8:00 am, Lunch 12:30 pm

Registration \$75 includes 8 holes of golf, power cart and lunch

Proceeds to the Redeemer Alumni Association Student Awards Program
Contact the Alumni Office for more information and a registration form.

at alumni@redeemer.ca or 905-648-2139 x4233 or 877-779-0913 x4233

Kearwood Club, new course, 9-4 Brook Rd. Ancaster, ON

www.kearwoodclub.com

Collaborative Approach to Promoting Cultural Discernment



In January 2009, Angela Reitsma Bick '01 and Brett Alan Dewing '02 became co-editors of the *Christian Courier*, an independent Reformed and Canadian newspaper based in St. Catharines, Ontario. An unexpected but providential meeting between the two led to the idea of sharing the editing job, and eventually, their employers shared this vision.

Angela and Brett's collaborative efforts can be traced back to their years at Redeemer. Both were Theatre and English students, and honed their writing skills under Dr. Bowen and Prof. Cook. They worked together in their Acting and Directing class, and acted in the main stage production of *EE*. They were active in the IMAGO writers' group and the *Crown*, and edited *The Minister* together. In all of these endeavors, they grew through community with other writers and members of the student body.

Diverse education and life experiences have brought this creative team to their current professional collaboration. Angela and Brett recognize their complementary strengths, and the co-editorship is very fruitful, as each contributes and notices different things. At this point, the division of work is simple: Angela is in charge of news items and Brett is responsible for features. Bert Witvoet, interim editor, handles col-



umns and letters. Sharing article topics, publicity suggestions, and writing contacts aids the team approach. All editing work is done from home, and they meet in St. Catharines every few months.

In setting the direction that *Christian Courier* will take, the new editors are committed to keeping an informed Christian perspective that demonstrates and encourages cultural discernment. They aim to broaden readership by attracting new writers, giving a voice to members of a younger generation, and including writers from diverse backgrounds. "*Christian Courier* offers original insight on political situations around the world; its columnists respond thoughtfully to issues; and its stories provide a connection with other believers," notes Angela.

Brett and Angela invite alumni to check out *Christian Courier*. You can email either of them for a free online copy of a recent issue (brett@christiancourier.ca or angela@christiancourier.ca).

Angela and her husband Allan live in Barrie with their two daughters, Robin and Alia. Angela has had articles published in Canadian Poetry, the Banner, and catapult. With her girls, she enjoys home-made crafts, stick-collecting, spirit-analysing, and hide and seek (often involving lost library books).

Brett is involved in ministry work dealing with homosexuality (undergroundrainbow.com). A voracious reader and film buff, Brett also writes poetry and prose (Mornings When I Wake). Brett's writing has been published in catapult, The Windhover, and Hammered Out. Two of Brett's plays have been performed in Redeemer's Black Box Theatre.

100 Mile Artist



One of Chris' paintings made from materials found within 100 miles of his studio.

Iconographer and artist Christopher Van Donkelaar '08 set out to create a series of icons portraying Christian saints and Biblical figures. The catch was that he would only use paint made from ingredients found within 100 miles of his Conestogo home.

"Places near our homes are oftentimes the ones we experience with a kind of blindness," says Christopher. "We all have such beauty around us if we can just adjust our eyes to see it – that is the main aim of the 100mileArt Project."

From grape vines and red jasper pebbles to wood seed, Christopher spent a great deal of time experimenting, researching, and venturing through Southern Ontario forests and lakes to find the pigments he needed to complete the paintings.

He chose the parameters for the project from the '100 Mile Diet,' a movement toward local eating popularized by Vancouver authors Alisa Smith and J.B. MacKinnon. "At its best, both art and food collect from the natural world, carefully process what they find and create something inspired," he says.

Graduating with a History major, Christopher followed his education at Redeemer with six years of Iconography training from Orthodox Monks in Galton, Ohio. For more information about his project, visit his website at: www.vandonkelaar.ca.

Personal Touch

- >> **Tim and Sarah Pallant St. Pierre '00** would like to announce the birth of their daughter Emma Maizie Joy, on April 6, 2009. Tim, Sarah and Emma are also moving to a new home — 437 Bay Street, Port Perry, Ontario L9L 1M7.
- >> **Eric Renkema '00 and Marya VanBreda Renkema '01** are thrilled to announce the safe arrival of their third son, Liam Josiah on February 10, 2009. Liam is a brother for Even and Darren.
- >> **Joy and Peter Schuurman '92** are happy to announce the birth of Petra Jean, born September 13, 2008, a sister to Joseph. After eight years as a CRC campus minister at Brock University, Peter has recently completed five years of work with Christian Reformed Home Missions, co-ordinating their campus ministry work. He now has six months of parental leave before beginning a Ph.D. in Religious Studies at the University of Waterloo this fall. He hopes to focus his research on Peter Berger's theory of comedy as a signal of redemptive history, and to continue teaching World Religions at Redeemer.
- >> **Ryk Veldhuizen '07** and his wife Anne-Marie were blessed with a healthy baby girl, Annique Johanna, born on February 3, 2009. Ryk is teaching at Rehoboth Christian School in Norwich, while Anne-Marie is a full-time Mom. rveldhuizen@acanac.net
- >> **Jonathan '02 and Julie Hunse '93** are pleased to announce the arrival of their son, Willem Paul, born on December 15, 2008. We praise God for blessing us with this precious gift. Jonathan is currently teaching at Woodland Christian Highschool in Breslau and Julie is on maternity leave from her teaching position at Clinton and District Christian School.
- >> **Emily Camire, '01** married Matthew Gowing of Hagersville on May 9, 2009 at the Dundas Valley Golf & Curling Club. Emily and Matt live in Hamilton where Emily works for Homestead Christian Care. Matthew currently attends McMaster University in the social work program. To get in touch with Emily, email: emilycamire@hotmail.com
- >> **Jason '99 and Rachel VanArragon Hofing '99** announce the opening of Red Hill Coffee Trade, their fair trade, organic coffee roasterie in Hamilton. Their roasterie supplies coffee wholesale to businesses, retail outlets, churches, organizations and events. You can check them out at www.redhillcoffee.com, thetrade@redhillcoffee.com
- >> **Adam '09 and Joy Harris '08** have taken up a five-year youth ministry position with Youth Unlimited in Belleville, ON. Adam has become the new program director of Spirit Borne (<http://www.qyfc.com/whatsspiritbornec174.php>), which seeks to disciple youth in their relationship with Jesus Christ in the context of musical performing arts. Both Adam and Joy are very excited about this new adventure, and they covet your prayers as they take this trembling step in faith.
- >> After graduating from Redeemer in 1995, **Derek Niedema** went on to receive a Master of Divinity from Calvin Theological Seminary. After pastoring for five years, he decided to return to his political science roots and head to Ottawa. Derek enrolled in the Laurentian Leadership Centre in the fall of 2005, and now works with the Institute of Marriage and Family Canada, exploring the interface between politics and faith. Derek married Melanie Ramsay on April 4, 2009 and they live in Smiths Falls, Ontario.

Want to contribute to Personal Touch?

Alumni are encouraged to forward their news of interest for publication in the Personal Touch column. Marriages, births, job changes, academic accomplishments — whatever your friends and former classmates might be interested in. Please send an email to alumni@redeemer.ca, or contribute through the on-line form at www.redeemer.ca/alumni



And a tip of the hat to you... Tanya Boeringa, Victoria McInnes, Lisa Breimer and Janet Breimer celebrate their accomplishments after the graduation ceremony on May 23. Redeemer University College congratulates all of its graduates, and thanks them for the contributions they have made to campus during their stay. On behalf of the students and graduates, Redeemer also thanks you, our faithful community. It is your support that helps make these milestones possible.

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